

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09307 120115Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SCA-01

VO-03 L-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /031 W

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P 120023Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9202

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 9307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR/SGEN/CVIS/MX

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE I OF VISA AGREEMENT:

PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE

REF: STATE 237231

1. IT IS NOW ANTICIPATED THAT AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE WILL EXCHANGE NOTES WITH FONSECRETARY RABASA DECEMBER 14, 1973, WHEREUPON TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL AGREE TO ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE I OF 1953 VISA AGREEMENT. MEXICANS HAVE REWORDED THEIR NOTE TO PROVIDE FOR 30-DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD FOLLOWING EXCHANGE (REFTEL).

2. EMBASSY IS CONSCIOUS OF POSSIBILITY THAT, DESPITE INTERNAL GOM NOTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, THERE MAY BE INCIDENTS AFTER EXPIRATION OF 30-DAY GRACE PERIOD IN WHICH MEXICAN OFFICIALS PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR ENTRY ON BASIS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTATION. IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE, OR AT LEAST MINIMIZE, SUCH INCIDENTS AND RELATED UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE WHEN NOTES ARE EXCHANGED. LIKEWISE, WE WILL URGE GOM TO PUBLICIZE NEW PROCEDURES AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.

3. SUGGESTED TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 09307 120115Z

"ON DECEMBER 14, RESPONDING TO A MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

INITIATIVE, AMBASSADOR ROBERT H. MCBRIDE EXCHANGED NOTES
WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO O. RABASA WHEREBY THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO AGREED TO
AMEND THE BILATERAL VISA AGREEMENT OF 1953. UNDER ARTICLE I
OF THAT AGREEMENT, PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS WERE WAIVED ON
A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY FOR MILITARY OR CIVILIAN OFFICIALS
OR EMPLOYEES OF THE MEXICAN NATIONAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES. THE NEW
AMENDMENT WILL ELIMINATE THIS PARTICULAR ARTICLE OF
THE AGREEMENT.

THROUGH THE DECEMBER 14 EXCHANGE OF NOTES, THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 30-DAY GRACE PERIOD
TO NOTIFY INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE CHANGE IN THE
AGREEMENT. AS OF JANUARY 14, 1974, OFFICIALS OF EACH COUNTRY WILL
BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT VALID PASSPORTS AND VISAS FOR ENTRY
INTO THE OTHER, OR OTHERWISE TO MEET THE REGULATORY
PROVISIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE BY PRESEN-
TATION OF A BORDER CROSSING CARD.

THIS AMENDMENT TO THE VISA AGREEMENT IS SEEN AS A
POSITIVE STEP BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AIMED AT ENSURING
COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTENT OF LEGISLATION IN EACH COUNTRY
PERTAINING TO THE ENTRY OF ALIEN VISITORS."

4. EMBASSY INFORMALLY WILL RAISE IDEA OF PRESS
RELEASE AND VISA AND PASSPORT WAIVERS FOR IBWC OFFICIALS WITH
FONSECRETARIAT DEC. 12. WE WILL REPORT GOM
REACTION.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE.
MCBRIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, IMMIGRANT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO09307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731229/aaaaavmu.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 237231
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE I OF VISA AGREEMENT: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE
TAGS: PBOR, SGEN, CVIS, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005